

2019 School Accountability Panel Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2019 at 9:00 AM EDT

Indiana State House, House Chambers

Panel Members Present: Dr. Byron Ernest (Co-chair), Mr. Pat Mapes (Co-chair), Representative Bob Behning, Senator Jeff Raatz, Mr. Jason Bearce, Ms. Malika Butler, Dr. Drew Findlay, Ms. Jody French, Mr. Mark Hobbs, Mr. Brian Knight, Commissioner Teresa Lubbers, Dr. Matthew Prusiecki, Ms. Kristen Boehnlein, Mr. B.J. Watts

Panel Members Absent: Mr. Chris Lowery

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

- a.** Minutes approved via voice vote.

IV. Welcome from the Chairs

V. Discussion Items:

a. Postsecondary Outcomes Homework

- i.** No discussion.

b. Accountability Framework

- i.** Dr. Ernest introduced the draft accountability framework and explained the various items included in the framework.
- ii.** Rep. Behning asked questions regarding the postsecondary outcomes and suggested a timeline be included.
- iii.** Commissioner Lubbers explained that postsecondary readiness outcomes looks at what a student accomplished after their first year.
- iv.** Rep. Behning asked whether schools would get credit for associates degrees earned in high school.
- v.** Rep. Behning wants to ensure credit is given for sequential or stackable college credits as opposed to rewarding random acts of college credit. College credit, AP, etc. must be packaged in a meaningful way.
- vi.** Mr. Bearce recommended structure be added to sections referring to college credit.
- vii.** Mr. Bearce recommended schools be given a grace period to ensure student completes an outcome within one year of graduation.
- viii.** Mr. Watts asked a question about what it means to complete all attempted college coursework and stressed the Panel should be holding K-12 accountable for what K-12 can control.
- ix.** Rep. Behning stressed the importance of looking at remediation rates.

- x. Mr. Bearce noted that when it comes to enrollment, enrollment in and of itself is not enough.
- xi. Commissioner Lubbers reminded the Panel that in order to be accepted to a 4-year college, students must have a Core 40, and students that have earned a Core 40 should not need remediation once they enter postsecondary.
- xii. Mr. Knight stated he wanted to make sure the model doesn't incent schools to deter students who may need remediation in postsecondary.
- xiii. Ms. French asked how we can get colleges and high schools on the same page.
- xiv. Dr. Prusiecki noted he looks at these measures as a way to provide feedback and the measures should make things better for institutions.
- xv. Rep. Behning suggested the Panel is ahead of itself and maybe the Panel should be back-mapping what the state's workforce of the next couple years looks like. Rep. Behning pointed out that 99% of jobs created since the last recession require postsecondary education and credentials.
- xvi. Rep. Behning suggested creating an accountability system that pushes the state towards more "earn-and-learns."
- xvii. Mr. Mapes wondered whether we should move to a Core 20 or Core 25 diploma rather than the current Core 40 diploma and questioned why we put kids in art even if they have no interest in it.
- xviii. Mr. Hobbs asked whether Algebra II defines a successful student and noted that agriculture classes now include science.
- xix. Rep. Behning cautioned that as we look toward alternative classes, the Panel needs to make sure the classes maintain their original rigor.
- xx. Mr. Bearce suggested not every measure may be appropriate for every student – gave the example of proficiency in math and English.
- xxi. Sen. Raatz questioned whether the State should create measures that drive the direction of education along the way or should the State determine what a good education looks like and hold schools accountable for the results at the end.
- xxii. Mr. Watts stated he believes the system should hold schools accountable along the way so schools can change behaviors before the student leaves.
- xxiii. Dr. Ernest summarized areas of consensus among the Panel members with regard to the framework.
- xxiv. Ms. Boehnlein asked for clarification regarding the framework and how grades might be calculated using that framework.
- xxv. Dr. Ernest requested that the framework presented to the Panel be simplified.
- xxvi. Commissioner Lubbers suggested that the Statewide Transfer General Education Core ("STGEC") should be included in "enrollment" and certificates should be included in "enlistment."
- xxvii. Rep. Behning suggested technical certificates should be added to the postsecondary outcomes included in the framework.

c. Shared Accountability

- i. Dr. Ernest explained his view of what “shared accountability” means – where should we share accountability when a student comes to one school from another with almost nothing accomplished?
- ii. Mr. Bearce asked for further clarification about the meaning of “shared accountability.”
- iii. Rep. Behning suggested looking at on-track metrics or benchmarks the state could measure along the way rather than focusing solely on outcomes when a student graduates from high school.
- iv. Mr. Watts offered general support for the idea of including “shared accountability” in the Panel’s final recommendations and voiced support for rewarding schools that catch kids up.
- v. Dr. Prusiecki recognized a need to reward schools for catching kids up and getting them to graduation but questioned the appropriateness of punitive measures that would negatively impact a school’s letter grade.
- vi. Mr. Mapes spoke about the need for a uniform student tracking or data management system mandated for use by all districts across the state.
- vii. Dr. Findlay suggested focusing on the growth of students.
- viii. Dr. Prusiecki voiced his support for rewarding schools under shared accountability rather than penalizing schools.
- ix. Rep. Behning asked whether using credits was an acceptable way to measure whether students are on-track.
- x. Dr. Ernest voiced his concern about using credits as a measure of whether a student is on track and shared an anecdote about a student who had the required credits but didn’t actually have the knowledge they should have.
- xi. Mr. Bearce questioned how big of an issue this is across the state.
- xii. Rep. Behning suggested looking at this data and requesting this data from the Indiana Department of Education. Rep. Behning said he would request this data.

d. When Should Accountability in High School Begin?

- i. Dr. Ernest asked whether looking at grades 9 through 12 is what we should be looking at because things look different now.
- ii. Mr. Mapes suggested accountability begins in 9th grade and noted 8th grade is still for exploration.
- iii. Dr. Prusiecki agreed with Mr. Mapes that accountability should begin in 9th grade.

e. “Strength of” Metrics

- i. Dr. Ernest spoke about using “strength of” metrics – strength of diploma/strength of graduation pathway.
- ii. Dr. Ernest asked whether a school should be rewarded when a student graduates and qualifies for more than one graduation pathway.
- iii. Mr. Bearce suggested tabling this discussion until the Panel had an opportunity to review a revised accountability framework.
- iv. Further discussion on the issue was tabled.

VI. Public Comment (limited to 30 minutes)

- a.** Mr. Terry Spradlin – Executive Director, Indiana School Boards Association
 - i.** Noted that the Senate voted to remove the inclusion of postsecondary performance metrics from initial legislation
 - ii.** Raised concerns with longitudinal tracking through the Management Performance Hub.
 - iii.** Raised opposition to the idea of including postsecondary performance metrics in the high school accountability model.

- b.** Mr. Chris Lagoni – Executive Director, Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association
 - i.** Asked the Panel to focus on things schools could control within 180 days.

VII. Adjourn